

From the Editor

FROM homeland security to special operations (as signified by this month's cover), America's Army is preparing for what could be the longest period of sustained operations in our nation's history.

Our coverage of the Army's role in the war on terrorism continues with Senior Editor Heike Hasenauer's "America Regroups." She offers a compelling look at the reaction to the Sept. 11 events and takes us through the anticipation of the campaign's first salvos.

In a Total Force tour de force, *Soldiers* asks the secretary of the Army, the director of the Army National Guard and the chief of the Army Reserve to give us their perspectives on what might lie ahead.

We also offer two stories from Europe that are especially relevant. "Training Europe's Best" showcases NATO special operations training and "Projecting Power in Europe" provides an overview of the intricacies of quickly massing decisive combat power from Europe.

And, finally, to celebrate Veterans Day (and to redress and oversight from last year), we dedicate this issue to Vietnam veterans.

John C. Suttle

Response to Terror

MY correspondence is in reference to the recent evil that has fallen on our nation. I am not perfect in my written correspondence and can be longwinded, so please bear with me.

During times of grief and mourning members of some institutions place a symbol of recognition or remembrance on their clothing or uniform. For example, I have seen professional sports teams in the past wear patches or arm bands in remembrance of a fallen teammate.

In the recent horrible events, our people have come together as never before. Flags are in high demand and in short supply nationwide. People are adorning themselves with red, white and blue ribbons and patriotic T-shirts in support of our nation, its military and, of course, in remembrance of those suffering because of the Sept. 11 tragedies.

Is there a way that we as soldiers may do something along the same lines? I do of course mean something identical and Armywide, or even DOD wide. Whether an arm band, a patch or some symbolic insignia, I feel it would be a good show of our loyalty to our commander in chief and our nation, and an awesome way to honor those heroes who have given their lives for our nation.

I understand that there are a number of factors that would affect such an undertaking, from the approval process to the issuing of such an item. I have researched AR 670-1 and cannot find anything in reference to this idea. I also cannot think of how to get this idea to the right people. Thank you, and God Bless America!

SSG Ryan A. Tozier
Fort Hood, Texas

September Kudos

CONGRATULATIONS on Steve Harding's excellent September article "OPBAT Soldiers." It greatly enhanced my knowledge of the Army's joint counterdrug missions with the Coast Guard, this nation's fifth and smallest service branch.

Former Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman and current U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell was right on target when he said: "The Coast Guard provides national command authorities a unique instrument in the nation's security tool bag." Your magazine did an outstanding job of pointing out to its readers how right on target GEN Powell's remarks were over a decade ago.

Jim Dolbow
Alexandria, Va.

THE command and soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, greatly appreciate your wonderful September story "OPBAT Soldiers." It is one of the most factually accurate stories I have seen published about the operation.

CPT Charles P. Johnson
OPBAT Coordinator
Hunter Army Airfield, Ga.

THANK you for the excellent work you do on *Soldiers* magazine.

The publication is especially effective in portraying and highlighting the Army's history. I enjoy your series on the Army's active divisions very much. As well as informing us about the people who now soldier, it also reminds us of all the others who discharged their duty so well to keep our country safe and strong.

My very best wishes for your continued success.

SMA William Wooldridge (Ret.)
via e-mail

WE appreciate your kind words, and find them especially gratifying coming from the first sergeant major of the Army.



Gaffs and Oversights

I BELIEVE the September photo of the Bradley and British vehicle has burning oil wells in the background. That would place the photo no later than November or December of 1991, by which point all the fires were put out. I'm guessing the photo you ran was actually

taken during Operation Desert Storm proper or shortly after the cease-fire.

I was there from February to September 1991 with the Corps of Engineers Kuwait Emergency Recovery Office. It looks like the desert along the road headed to Basra.

James N. Parker Jr.
Savannah, Ga.

